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ECEVIT ANKARA, TURKEY (AP) -- PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT INDICATED TODAY THAT TURKEY COULD BEGIN WITHDRAWING ITS INVASION FORCES FROM CYPRUS IF THE UNITED NATIONS ARRANGES SAFE PASSAGE FOR TURKISH CYPRIOTS FROM GREEK CYPRIOT TERRITORY TO THE TURKISH-OCCUPIED NORTH.

"I HOPE THAT WE CAN SETTLE THIS PURELY HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM IN A PEACEFUL WAY," ECEVIT SAID IN AN INTERVIEW.

"BUT WE HAVE TO FIND A SOLUTION," HE STRESSED.

ECEVIT WARNED THAT UNLESS CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESUMED SOON, "LIFE ON THE ISLAND CANNOT WAIT INDEFINITELY AND ADMINISTRATIONS IN BOTH ZONES WOULD HAVE TO TAKE SHAPE AND BE CONSOLIDATED SO THAT EVENTUALLY THERE WOULD BE NO ROOM LEFT FOR A FEDERAL HOOF TO JOIN THESE TWO AUTONOMOUS ADMINISTRATIONS."

"WE HAVE THE FEELING THIS MAY BE THE INTENTION OF GREECE," HE SAID. "THEY MAY HAVE IN MIND THE ANNEXATION OF THE REMAINING PART OF CYPRUS TO GREECE."

BUT TURKEY WANTS AN INDEPENDENT CYPRUS, ECEVIT SAID, BECAUSE "IT IS NECESSARY FOR DETENTE IN OUR AREA AND WE DON'T WANT TO SEE GREECE COME SO NEAR TURKEY IN THE SOUTH AS WELL. WE HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE ON OUR WEST."

ECEVIT DENIED TURKEY IS SENDING MAINLAND TURKS TO CYPRUS TO SWELL THE POPULATION OF THE TURKISH-OCCUPIED ZONE.

"WE HAVE BEEN SENDING TEMPORARILY SOME PEOPLE TO HELP START THE ECONOMY OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND. THAT IS ALL," HE SAID.

ECEVIT ALSO DECLARED THAT A CUTOFF OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY WOULD NOT CHANGE HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES TOWARD CYPRUS, THE UNITED STATES OR THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

"I FEEL THAT THE NECESSITY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TURKEY GOES DEEPER THAN THE ISSUE OF MILITARY AID," HE SAID.

ECEVIT WAS APPARENTLY RESPONDING TO A THREAT AUG. 19 BY REP. BENJAMIN S. ROSENTHAL, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE EUROPE SUBCOMMITTEE, TO SUSPEND ALL \$242 MILLION IN U.S. AID TO TURKEY UNLESS ANKARA NEGOTIATES A PEACE SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS.

ECEVIT PRAISED WASHINGTON FOR ACTING WITH RESTRAINT IN THE CYPRUS CRISIS. BECAUSE OF THIS, HE SAID, "PUBLIC OPINION IN TURKEY IS INCOMPARABLY BETTER SUITED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AMERICA AND TURKEY."

EVEN IF WASHINGTON SHOULD SUSPEND AID, ECEVIT SAID, HE WOULD STRIVE TO KEEP TURKISH PUBLIC REACTION FROM CREATING "A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE AS FAR AS NATO AND TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED."

"IF GREECE INSISTS ON WITHDRAWING FROM THE MILITARY STRUCTURE OF NATO WE CAN TAKE OVER SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE AEGEAN AS MIGHT FALL TO TURKEY TO COMPENSATE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE," HE SAID.

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